



By the King.

## A Proclamation for Buildings.



W<sup>e</sup> doe well perceiue in Our Princely wisedome and prouidence, now, that Our Citie of London is become the greatest, or next the greatest Citie of the Christian world, it is more then time that there be an vtter cessation of further new Buildings, lest the surcharge and overflow of people doe bring vpon Our said Citie infinite inconueniences, which haue beene so often mentioned, both in Our former Proclamations, and in the Decrees of Our high Court of Star-Chamber, as it were in vaine to repeat them; Our purpose and Princely resolution being now and hereafter, to leane words, and to act, and execute Our Princely Ordinances on that behalfe, and not to make discourse or recitall of them: Therefore, as we doe exceedingly approue and commendall Edifices, Structures and workes which tend to publique vse and ornament, in and about Our said Citie, as the pauiing of Smithfield, the planting of Moorefields, the bringing of the New-Streame vnto the west parts of the City and Suburbs, the Pesthouse, Suttons Hospitall, Britaines Burse, the reedifying of Algate, Hicks Hall, and the like workes, which haue beene erected and performed in greater number in these twelue yeeres of Our Reigne, then in whole ages heretofore; So on the other side, for further addition of priuate Buildings, wee are fully resolved, that this Our Royall Proclamation, and finall and peremptory Commandement, shall be the furthest and vtmost period and end of them; Onely, as to priuate houses, wee could desire and wish, according to Our former Proclamation and Ordinances touching Brick-buildings, that as it was said by the first Emperour of Rome, that hee had found the City of Rome of Bricke, and left it of Marble, So that wee whom God hath honoured to be the first King of Great Britaine, mought be able to say in some proportion, That wee had found Our Citie and Suburbs of London of Sticks, and left them of Bricke, being a Materiall farre more durable, safe from fire, beautifull and magnificent.

Having therefore lately begun this great reformation, by Our Royall Commission directed vnto Our Prinsie Councell, and other principall persons, and published in the Guildhall by the mouth and declaration of Our Chancellour, as from Our owne Princely and immediate





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direction; wee haue thought good further to confirme and corroborate aswell our former Proclamations and Royall commandements, as the said late Declaration of our Chancelour by this our present Proclamation, wherein first wee would haue our louing Subjects vnderstand, that it shall well appeare by our resolute and constant restraining of all future priuate Buildings without all Dispensation, Toleration or Conuenance, that it was not profit that was the scope and end of our said Commission, but the reformation of the abuse which by the experience of so many former Proclamations contemned, we did plainly see before our eyes was impossible to remedie, except punishment and example for the time past, did accompany the prohibition and restraint for the future; wherein neuerthelesse wee haue caried so moderate a hand, and so mixed our Clemencie with our Justice, as the fruit of a Reformation may not haue too much of the sowre grape, but rather a taste of our Grace and Mercy. And for matter of profit, we would haue our Subjects know, that although it be not a thing wee doe chiefly regard, yet wee take our selues to be interested in honour, that the procedure of a publique Reformation, be not turned to any priuate benefit, but haue the true current into our Royall Treasure, which is the sinewes of our Estate vpon all occasions.

Lastly, we doe hereby ratifie and confirme all our precedent Proclamations touching Buildings in and about our Citie; Giuing strait charge and commandement, as well to our Commissioners, to proceed diligently and thoroughly in the execution of our said Commission, without slackenesse or remissnesse (as they haue hitherto well begun) as to all other our Magistrates, Officers and Ministers, and all our louing Subjects in generall, That they doe euer hereafter, duely, firmly and straightly obserue, performe and execute the contents of our said former Proclamation, and that no man hereafter doe expect either Licence, or Dispensation for further Buildings, nor so much as this former course of lenitie vled by our Commission, but the utmost seueritie of the Law, and the Sentence of our high Court of Starre-Chamber, if they shall hereafter offend. And because wee intend this our proceeding for Reformation be inuiolable for the time to come, wee are graciously pleased, that the Buildings now erected and not finished, be not pulled downe, so that they be finished by Michaelmas next, the offenders neuerthelesse making composition with our Commissioners in that behalfe.

Giuen at Theobalds the sixteenth day of Iuly, in the thirteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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ANNO DOM. M. DC. XV.



James - 1841  
J. Atwell

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